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Source: NY-SI-PERS-3

February 21, 1942

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Paul Krosigk

TON SCHERER - Krosigk, Count Lutz - Finance Minister

The poor man has so many children of whom he must take care - otherwise he would resign from his post of Finance Minister, good old Berlin conservatives would tell you if you asked them why an aristocrat of good family such as Count Scherlin-Krosigk was staying with Hitler. They all claimed that he deplored the reign of terror of his master. Scherlin-Krosigk and Schacht were the ones who supposedly called on Hitler to resign from their jobs after some especially despicable act of Nazi violence. Their friends claimed that Hitler had answered "Gentlemen, does anybody jump out of a speeding express?" Later Schacht tried to convey the impression that he had been the one to coin the phrase "no cabinet member jumps out of the racing express".

Scherlin-Krosigk was a devout Protestant and a great friend of Pastor Niemöller. He attended just a number of Niemöller's sermons and tried to help him when he was in trouble.

Scherlin-Krosigk never served as figurehead in his ministry. The real power in that outfit was Secretary of State Reichenbach, an incredibly horrible, ruthless, vulgar, little person who caused the enmity of Gestapo. Scherlin-Krosigk was terrified of him and I can't quite blame him.

The old school aristocrat had a certain hold over the Nazis because in the days of the republic he was one of the men who juggled the budget to get funds for Germany's rearmament. He belonged to the Kaiserliche Division of Danzig - a weak regiment in World War I - then got a job with the Finance Ministry in 1920 where he worked in the budget section until Papen rewarded his efforts with the Finance Ministry in 1932. He is pretty sick of the role he is made to play. He looks ages older than he is - "This surprise from this war alive, he will be pretty scared of getting himself into another express train". Nevertheless his general lack of character calls for the greatest distrust - even if his old pals say he is such a good Christian.

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DATE 17 Apr 1953

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